

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4089

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID PFOR IS JO
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR AGRICULTURAL TRAINING
ASSISTANCE TO WEST BANKS ARABS

1. IN MEETING JUNE 19 ARAB DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND EXTENSION SERVICES ON WEST BANK
INQUIRIES
RE POSSIBILITY OF USG ASSISTING
IN PROVISION OF GRADUATE-LEVEL EDUCATION FOR
SELECTED ARAB AGRONOMISTS CURRENTLY WORKING FOR
MILITARY GOVERNMENT ON WEST BANK. (MEETING, WHICH
WAS ATTENDED BY AG ATT AND OTHER EMBOFF, WAS ARRANGED AT
INITIATIVE OF ARAB OFFICIALS, SHAHADEH DEJANI.)

2. DAJANI MADE POINT THAT HE WAS PRIMARILY
INTERESTED IN EDUCATION FOR YOUNGER AGRONOMISTS
HIRED SINCE 1967 AND NOT ON JORDANIAN PAYROLL,
THUS APPARENTLY NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN
GOJ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. DAJANI, IN RESPONSE
TO OUR QUESTION, SAID THAT ISRAELI MILGOVT IS
SYMPATHETIC TO NEED FOR ENHANCED PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATION FOR YOUNGER STAFF MEMBERS BUT CANNOT
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FUND SUCH PROGRAM. DAJANI SAID HE HAD ALSO BEEN

IN TOUCH WITH CONGEN JERUSALEM (CONCERNING CU PROGRAM ADMINISTERED AT CONGEN) BUT THAT THAT PROGRAM DID NOT SEEM RESPONSIVE TO HIS NEEDS.

3. IN MEANTIME, ACCORDING TO DAJANI, YOUNGER STAFF MEMBERS ARE BEGINNING TO EXPERIENCE PROFESSIONAL FRUSTRATION, BEING AWARE THAT THERE ARE TECHNIQUES AND AREAS OF RESEARCH THAT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WORK ON THE WEST BANK BUT HAVING NO MEANS OF EXPOSURE TO THEM. HE CITED IN PARTICULAR POTENTIAL UTILITY ON WEST BANK OF NEW METHODS OF IRRIGATION. WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, DAJANI IMPLIED THAT HE IS IN DANGER OF LOSING SOME OF THESE INDIVIDUALS.

4. WE HAVE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH CONGEN AND CONFIRMED THAT CU PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY IT IS DEPENDENT ON PARTICIPATION OF WHATEVER SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS AFME CAN ARRANGE AND THAT THESE DO NOT OFTEN ENCOMPASS AGRICULTURE. DAJANI HAS NEVERTHELESS SUBMITTED NAME OF ONE EMPLOYEE FOR CONSIDERATION SHOULD APPROPRIATE PROGRAM BECOME AVAILABLE.

5. EVEN THOUGH THE CONSULATE GENERAL CULTUREAL PROGRAM DOES NOT SEEM TO BE APPROPRIATE IN THIS CASE, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE USG BE OF ASSISTANCE IF POSSIBLE. AS FAR AS WE CAN SEE THERE ARE TWO WAYS IN WHICH THIS

MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED: 1) IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO FIND A WAY TO INCLUDE A LIMITED NUMBER OF WEST BANK AGRONOMISTS IN A PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY AID/AMMAN. PERHAPS INCREASING THE JORDANIAN QUOTA OF AID-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS TO AUB WOULD BE A WAY TO HANDLE THE PROGRAM; OR 2) AFME MIGHT SEEK OUT INSTITUTIONS WILLING TO UNDERTAKE THE TYPE OF PROGRAM NECESSARY TO MEET WEST BANK AGRICULTURAL NEEDS. FROM A POLITICAL VIEWPOINT, THE FIRST APPROACH COULD POSE ISSUE OF ADDITIONAL JORDANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN WEST BANK

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AFFAIRS TO ISRAELI AUTHORITIES. ISRAELIS MAY OR MAY NOT FIND THIS APPROACH PRESENTS PROBLEM FOR THEM. IT MIGHT BE WORTH TRYING JUST TO TEST REACTIONS. THE AFME APPROACH WOULD NOT HAVE SIMILAR POLITICAL CONTENT.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ISRAELIS HAVE HELD UNDER THEIR AUSPICES AT LEAST ONE COURSE IN PAST FEW MONTHS TO UPGRADE SKILLS OF ARAB OFFICIALS WORKING IN AGRICULTURE

ON WEST BANK. ACCORDING TO ISRAELI OFFICIAL IN CHARGE
OF COURSE (PROF. VAADIYA) 30 STUDENTS TOOK COURSE AND
ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER COMPLETION AT LEAST DOZEN WERE HIRED
AWAY BY IRAQ AND HE EXPECTED NUMBER TO CLIMB. IF STORY
TRUE, THIS "; BRAIN DRAIN" MIGHT EXPLAIN SOME
ISRAELI RELUCTANCE TO ENGAGE IN TOO MUCH TRAINING
OF AGRONOMISTS ON WEST BANK.

7. IN ANY EVENT, WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF
WE COULD HELP TRAIN SOME YOUNGER WEST BANKERS
AS SUGGESTED BY DAJANI. BELOW ARE OUR SPECIFIC
SUGGESTIONS WHICH WE OFFER FOR CONSIDERATION AND
COMMENT BY ADDRESSEES.

A) AID/AMMAN. SOME OF THESE AGRONOMISTS
MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY
AID/AMMAN (WHETHER OR NOT THEY
ARE ON JORDANIAN
PAYROLL). IN THIS RESPECT, DOES AMMAN ADMINISTER A
PROGRAM OF SCHOLARSHIPS AT AUB WHICH MIGHT LEND
ITSELF TO THIS PURPOSE? HAVE WEST BANKERS ATTENDED AUB
UNDER THIS PROGRAM IN PAST?

B)
AFME. AFME MIGHT CONSCIOUSLY SEEK
INSTITUTIONS WILLING TO UNDERTAKE TYPE OF PROGRAM
NECESSARY TO MEET WEST BANK AGRICULTURAL NEEDS,
ASSUMING DAJANI IS ABLE TO COME UP WITH QUALIFIED,
ENGLISH-SPEAKING APPLICANTS.
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